

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 24-30, 35-45, and 47-49 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 24-26, 29, 35, 36, 38, 41, and 45 are currently amended, Claims 31, 32, 34, and 46 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 48 and 49 are added. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 3, line 14 to page 4, line 9, at page 7, line 29 to page 9, line 17, at page 10, lines 4-17, in Figures 1 and 2, and in Claims 32 and 34. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 45 was objected to; the drawings were objected to; Claims 24-32 and 34-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 24-30, 32, 34, 38, and 44-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Praeger (U.S. Patent No. 2,338,870) in view of Demars et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,434, hereinafter “Demars”); Claims 31, 35-37, 39, and 41-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Praeger in view of Demars, and further in view of Hermens et al. (German Patent Publication No. DE 10063547, hereinafter “Hermens”); and Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Praeger in view of Demars, and further in view of Kreyenborg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,623,203, hereinafter “Kreyenborg”).

Initially, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Omar Hijaz and Primary Examiner Brian Glessner for meeting with Applicants’ representatives, Colin Harris and Randy Hibshman, to discuss the present application on July 14, 2010. During the meeting, Applicants’ representative explained the claimed invention and discussed potential claim amendments to address the indefiniteness and prior art rejections. The Examiners agreed that the arguments and amendments presented during the discussion would overcome the current

rejections. Accordingly, arguments and amendments that are consistent with those during the interview are hereby presented for formal consideration.

Turning now to the objection to Claim 45, it is noted that Claim 45 is hereby amended as suggested in the Office Action. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claim 45 be withdrawn.

In response to the objection to the drawings, it is noted that Claims 46 and 31 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings is moot and should be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is noted that Claim 24 no longer recites “inside panel services” or “are contiguous and in perpendicular projection to one another”. Further, based on the discussion during the interview, Claim 24 is amended to clarify that the bonding layer recited in the last paragraph of the claim is the bonding layer between the laminated glazing elements.

Additionally, it is noted that Claims 31, 32, and 46 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, in view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that each pending claim is definite, and no further rejection on this basis is anticipated. However, if the Examiner disagrees, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

Turning now to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections and traverse these rejections, as discussed below.

Independent Claim 24 recites an assembly device comprising two laminated glazing elements that each include a plurality of individual glazing elements rigidly assembled to one another by intermediate bonding layers. Further, the two laminated glazing elements are contiguous and are assembled to one another in an overlap region by a bonding layer between

the laminated glazing elements in the overlap region and a mechanical retention member inserted in a through-hole in the overlap region.

Thus, the laminated glazing elements can be assembled in a contiguous manner such that the glazing elements do not have to be stacked one on top of the other to be assembled. Accordingly, the glazing elements can be formed into a continuous panel having a uniform thickness.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in independent Claim 24.

Praeger describes a partition construction formed of laminated plasterboards that are joined together with a U-shaped clip and a nail to provide for a partition in low-cost housing developments.¹ The Office Action acknowledges on page 6 that Praeger fails to disclose that the panels are laminated glazing elements and relies on Demars to cure this deficiency of Praeger.

However, as agreed during the interview, replacing the plasterboard of Praeger with the glazing elements described in Demars would render Praeger unsuitable for its intended purpose (providing partition structures for low-cost housing).

Further, although Demars does describe a fastening unit that fastens glass sheets 4, 5, as can be seen in the figures of Demars, these fastening units 12 are not provided in an overlap portion. Instead, Demars describes that the fastening units 12 are used to fasten glass sheets which are stacked on top of one another, and thus are not contiguous. In fact, an object of Demars is to provide “a glazed element having a high insulating ability and composed of at least two glass sheets between which a vacuum has been created.”² Thus, arranging the glazing elements of Demars in a contiguous manner would not allow a gap

¹ See Praeger, at page 1, column 1, lines 1-6 and 35-46, at page 1, column 2, lines 27-55 and in Figures 1-7.

² Demars at column 2, lines 24 – 27

between them such that the vacuum could not be created and the structure would not have a high insulating ability.

Accordingly, neither reference describes passing a mechanical retention member through an overlap portion so that the panels can be arranged contiguously. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 24, and all claims dependent thereon, as unpatentable over Praeger in view of Demars be withdrawn.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the secondary references (Hermens and Kreyenborg) do not cure the deficiencies of the above-described combination. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the remaining rejections also be withdrawn.

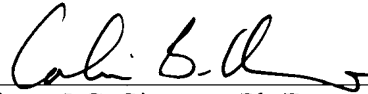
New Claims 48 and 49 are added by the present amendment. Based on the discussion during the interview, new Claim 48 is hereby added to clarify that multiple individual glazing elements from each of the laminated glazing elements project into the overlap region and that multiple individual glazing elements are recessed from the overlap region. Additionally, Claim 49 further defines the projecting and recessed elements recited in Claim 48.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 48 and 49 further patentably define over the cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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